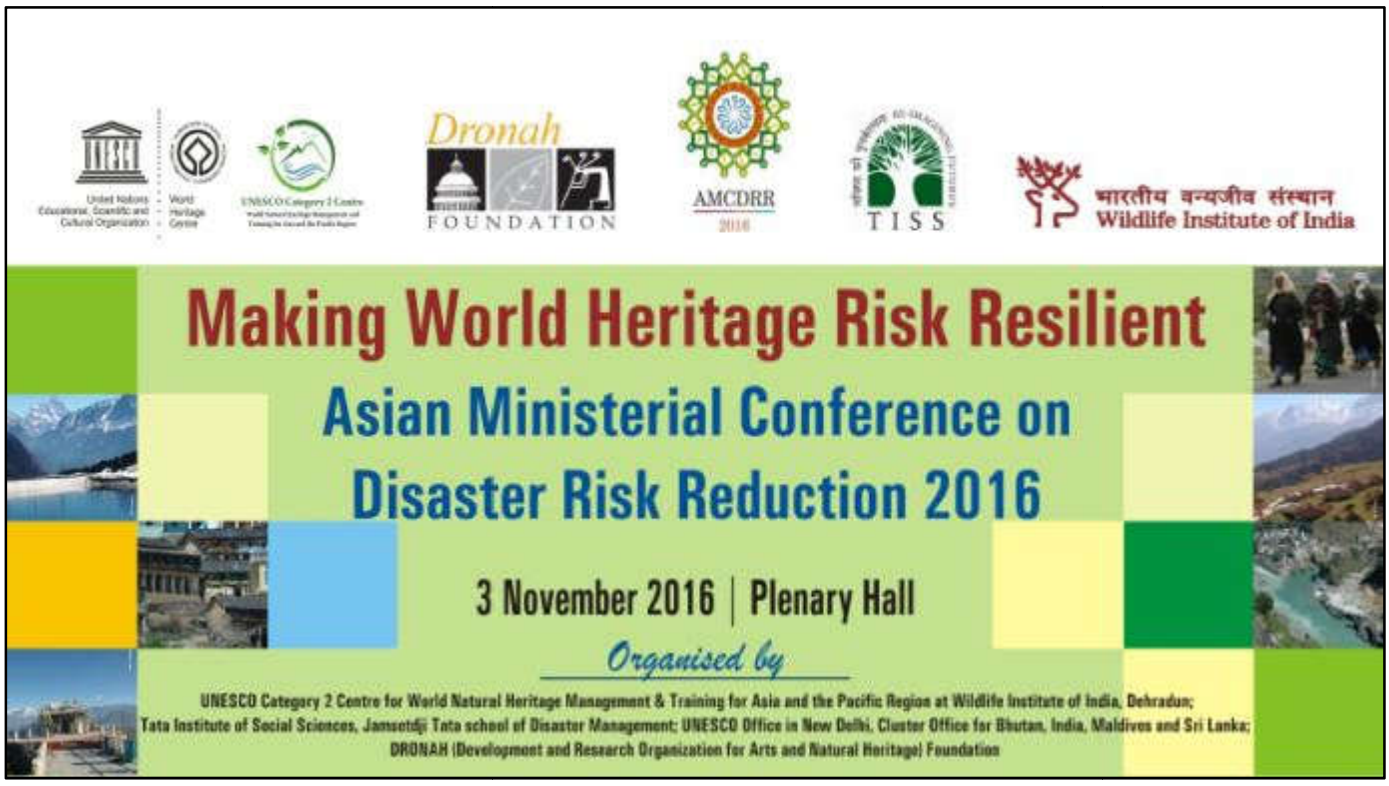
AMCDRR
2016



Session Booklet

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016

New Delhi, India

02-05 November 2016

Concept Note for Thematic session

Event title	**MAKING WORLD HERITAGE RISK RESILIENT**
Theme	**Making World Heritage Risk Resilient**
Date and Time	**3rd November. (1330 hrs-1500 hrs)**
Venue/ Room no.	**Plenary Hall Ground Floor/ Inaugural Area Back Lawns, VigyanBhawan, New Delhi India**
Organizers	**Lead**: UNESCO C2C on World Natural Heritage Site training and management for Asia Pacific region- Wildlife Institute of India P.O.Box.18. Chandrabani,Dehradun-248001 India Email: dwii@wii.gov.in; vbm@wii.gov.in; ghoshsonali@wii.gov.in **Collaborators:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences - Jamsetji Tata school of Disaster Management. email: andharia@tiss.edu UNESCO Office in New Delhi, Cluster Office for Bhutan, India, Maldives &Sri Lanka email: r.boojh@unesco.org ; m.chiba@unesco.org DRONAH (Development and Research Organization for Arts and Natural Heritage) Foundation. email: dronah.fdn@gmail.com
Session Objectives	• To Influence policy and action for better management and protection of Natural and Cultural World Heritage Sites for Disaster Risk Reduction. • To interact and provide a knowledge platform for promoting DRR solutions through World Heritage Sites to policy makers and practitioners in Asia-Pacific Region.

Background and context	In a rush to save life and properties during disasters, heritage sites are often forgotten or inadvertently pushed out of consciousness. When World Heritage properties[1], as with all heritage properties, are exposed to natural and man-made disasters, their integrity is threatened and their values may be compromised. The loss or deterioration of these Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) would negatively impact local and national communities, both for their cultural importance as a source of information on the past and a symbol of identity, and for their socio-economic as well as ecological values. Existing national and local disaster preparedness and response mechanisms usually do not include heritage expertise in their operations. As a result, hundreds of sites are virtually defenceless with respect to potential disasters. Protection of heritage sites in the event of natural disasters, conflicts and accidents requires urgent attention of the disaster management community, environmentalists, archaeologists and policy makers responsible for protection of people and properties. Since risks related to disasters within heritage sites are a function of their vulnerability to different potential hazards each site requires contexts specific DRR plans. This thematic session emphasises the need for countries to develop concerted policies and plans on disaster risk reduction for world heritage sites and also seeks to examine how the heritage can foster resilience. The session distinguishes between natural and cultural heritage, both of which require distinct approaches. It brings experts from both these areas who would reflect on the current situation, the potential threats and consequences and would also help identify the way ahead in terms of appropriate frameworks, existing practices and protocols, policies and perhaps trainings that may be required to enhance sensitivity of the many actors involved in creating robust DRR strategies for world heritage sites in the Asian region. For example Cultural heritage (such as buildings) and the traditional skills that have maintained it over the centuries, can be essential to enhance prevention and mitigation of disasters. Similarly an using ecosystem -based DRR approach Protected Areas and Natural heritage sites have now gained enough scientific evidence towards their efficacy as an effective buffer for natural hazards such as Tsunamis, floods and landslides. There are indeed many ways in which heritage can assist in reducing the impact of disasters, before, during and after they have taken place. This thematic session builds on the Priority 2 & 4 of the Sendai Framework for

1 World Heritage properties are cultural and natural heritage sites whose significance "is as exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity". A list of World Heritage properties is maintained and up-dated every year by an inter-governmental Committee (also known as the World Heritage Committee) in the framework of the World Heritage Convention, adopted by the general Conference of UNESCO in 1972. (More information on the Convention and its List of World Heritage properties are available at the following Web address: http://whc.unesco.org)

	Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and hopes to make key recommendations for inclusion of Heritage conservation for reducing disaster risk into the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.
Session format and programme	**13.30 - 13.35hrs** -Opening Remarks and setting the scene by Organizers **13.35 - 14.00hrs**- **Key Speakers(**6-8 minutes of presentation**)** • Mr. Vinay Sheel Oberoi, IAS Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt of India • Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Govt of India • Dr Vinod B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India & UNESCO C2C on World Natural Heritage Site Management & training for Asia Pacific region. • Mr. MitrasenBhikajee, Director UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka **Question &Answers** **14.05-14.55 hrs**- **Panel discussion on the way forward. Discussion on the recommendations to be made to the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework** (5 minutes per Panelist) **14.55-15.00-** Conclusion and Wrapping up
Intended main outcome and Key messages	The outputs from the session will assist in – • Integration of Natural and Cultural heritage conservation concerns into Regional disaster reduction policies; and • Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction within management plans and systems for World Heritage properties in their territories.

Note for speakers and panellists

Duscussion points for recommendations/ action points for Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework

Resilience is an integrating concept that allows multiple risks, shocks and stresses and their impacts on ecosystems and vulnerable people to be considered together in the context of development programming. How do we frame our thinking about sustainable futures in an environment of growing risk and uncertainty? Resilience is a concept concerned fundamentally with how a system, community or individual can deal with disturbance, surprise and change- disasters in this case. The idea of disaster resilience refers to the ability of a society or an eco-system to bounce back or bounce forward after a disaster!

The idea of *Making World Heritage Risk Resilient* requires some unpackaging. Heritage properties are exposed to Natural (flood, drought, earthquake, Tsunami etc.) and Man-made (forest fires, armed conflicts, industrial accidents, mass refugee movements etc.) disasters which threaten their integrity and may compromise their natural values. The loss or deterioration of outstanding values for which the sites were inscribed on the World Heritage List can have negative sociocultural and economic impacts. Recognizing that the sites directly or indirectly provide ecosystem services and potentially help reducing disasters or their impacts. (Presently there are 64 Protected Areas inscribed as Natural and Mixed World Heritage sites by UNESCO in the Asia-Pacific region and several others are currently on the Tentative List. All of these hold immense potential to serve as benchmarks for provisioning of ecosystem services and Ecosystem based disaster risk reduction DRR in the world).

The UN-Hyogo Framework for Action Priority 4 and the UN World ConferenceWCDRR in Sendai, Japan recognise the role of Protected Areas as an instrument for ecosystem-based adaptation to Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR). Natural World Heritage Sites exemplify this role by adding the dimension of traditional values, ecosystem integrity, and hence contribute immensely to this strategy.

World Heritage properties in the Asian region do not have any established policy, plan or process for managing disaster risks. Similarly, most local / community based or district disaster management plans usually do not include heritage expertise in their operations. Further, site managers have little or no awareness of DRR measures, required tools, protocols. How are heritage sites to be managed- both in terms of preparedness and response and development programming?

While resilience clearly has attractions as a unifying concept and has a vision with political implications in uncertain times, achieving positive outcomes requires concerted efforts at various levels of research, policy making and implementation.

A more systematic approach to addressing the multiple risks to heritage sites requires combining elements of resilience and risk – often regarded as a practical approach allowing a cross-disciplinary, cross-issue discussion – calling for risk resilience.

Broadly speaking programming risk resilience for heritage sites means supporting interventions to increase diversity, connectivity, learning, reflexivity, equity, inclusion and cohesion, while brokering the blending of knowledge. It also means emphasising the need to develop flexible systems that manage for change, to see change as a part of any system, social or otherwise and to expect the unexpected. All this also requires certain institutional capacities to enable range of risk management options to be pursued in ways that recognise resilience as a process that is inherently context specific.

World Natural Heritage Sites are places on Earth that have Outstanding Universal Value and therefore hold a special conservation need for entire humanity. These sites are considered precious for present and future generations hence they deserve collective efforts for conservation and management. Successfully dealing with more complex and long-term risks of these sites, requires sophisticated assessment tools, techniques and decision processes. What are those complexities?

The speakers and panellists are requested to focus on any one or a few of the following questions, placed under 3 broad categories below. Emanating from here, the thematic session would also like bring out specific actionable recommendations, which the speakers are requested to make and also raise questions for discussion such that the recommendations may emerge from insights shared at the session.

Context

- How do we understand the current context of conservation of world heritage site in different countries in the Asian region?
- What are some of the differences and commonalities of context that need to be taken cognisance of?

Protocols, guidelines, Tools

- What are the current international/National protocols to protect world heritage sites during disasters and conflict?
- How can risk resilience be translated into a practical set of tools and approaches for world heritage sites?

Roadmap, way ahead, factors to be considered

- What should the roadmap of making heritage sites risk resilience look like?
- Who are the key stakeholders that need to be engaged with in order to foster risk resilience?
- What kind of training and educational needs may be identified at various levels which will help make heritage risk resilient?
- What are some of the significant areas of research that need to be promoted?

Thank you for your participation and co-operation in advance.

Brief Profile of Key Speakers

1. Sh.VinaySheel Oberoi, Secretary, Ministry of Human, Resource Development
Email:Secy.dhe@nic.in

Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi is a 1979 batch IAS Officer of the Assam Meghalaya Cadre and is presently the Secretary, Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India at New Delhi. He has served in various departments of his cadre as well as on Central Deputation and assignments abroad. Shri Oberoi was Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, Paris from 2010 to 2014. During his stay in Paris, he spearheaded the task of successfully bringing in transformational changes in the working of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. At present he is also the Director General, Indian National Commission for Cooperation UNESCO, Govt of India.

2. Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority
Email: kkishore@ndma.gov.in

Shri Kamal Kishore has worked on disaster risk reduction and recovery issues for over 22 years at the local, national, regional and global levels. He has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, and a Master's degree in Urban Planning, Land and Housing Development from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Prior to joining the National Disaster Management Authority, he worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for nearly 13 years in New Delhi, Geneva and New York. At UNDP headquarters he led global advocacy campaigns to address disaster risk reduction concerns in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. As Programme advisor, he also led the development of disaster and climate risk management related elements of the UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-17).

3. Dr. Vinod B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India
Email: dwii@wii.gov.in , vbm@wii.gov.in

Dr. Vinod B. Mathur is the Director of Wildlife Institute of India (http://www.wii.gov.in/). He obtained his doctorate degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom in 1991. He is the Regional Vice-Chair of the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-South Asia).He has been actively contributing on research-policy interface issues and is the Regional Vice-Chair of United Nations-Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP). He is also currently the Chair of the UN-CBD Advisory Group for developing synergies between eight biodiversity-related conventions. He also heads the UNESCO Category 2 Centre on Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

4. **Dr. MitrasenBhikajee, Head of Science Sector, UNESCO Cluster Office for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.**
Email: m.bhikajee@unesco.org

Dr. Mitrasen Bhikajee is Head of Science Sector, UNESCO Cluster Office for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Mitrasen holds a B.Sc. in Zoology, a Master's degree in Fisheries Management and a Ph.D. in Marine Biology. He has been Associate Professor at the University of Mauritius and Director of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Previously, he was the Director and Deputy Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, where apart from his managerial duties, he also had the responsibility for capacity development and for the regional sub-commissions based in Jamaica, Kenya and Thailand. He has participated in a number of research cruises in the Indian Ocean. In recognition for his work in Marine Biology, a gastropod, *Chrystellabhikajeei*, discovered by Prof. Moolenbeek of the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam, has been named after him.

Brief Profile of Panelists

1. **Dr. Janki Andharia, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for Disasters and Development, Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies.**

Email: andharia@tiss.edu , jankiandharia@gmail.com

Dr. Janki Andharia has been teaching at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, for three decades and was Head, Department of Urban and Rural Community Development before moving on as the Chairperson of the newly created Centre for Disaster Management. She has received in 2015 an award for outstanding contribution for Education at the Global World Education Congress and in 2014 received a National Education Leadership award by Lokmat as the Best Professor in Disaster Management. She was invited to a 4 week Residency at the Bellagio Centre, Italy by the Rockefeller Foundation in May 2014. She is a recipient of the Association of Commonwealth Universities Scholarship, UK and completed her PhD in 1993 from the School of Environmental Studies, University of East Anglia, UK. In 2002 she did a year long deputation to the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, one of the largest philanthropies in India.

2. **Dr. Shirish A. Ravan, Senior Programme Officer, UNOOSA**
Email: shirish.ravan@unoosa.org

Dr. Shirish Ravan is Senior Programme Officer with United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) at Vienna. Till recently he was also Head of UN-SPIDER Beijing Office where he promoted the use of space based and geospatial information in all stages of disasters by offering technical advisory support and capacity building programmes to several countries in Asia, Pacific and Africa. He brings in vast experience in earth observation and geo-spatial technology applications in the areas of disaster, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem management etc. He was also stationed in Afghanistan to lead the Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime where he used earth observation

technology to counter opium cultivation. He holds a Bachelor degree in Horticulture, a Master in Environmental Sciences and Doctorate in Forest Ecology.

3. Dr. Shikha Jain, Director - Preservation and Community Design, DRONAH
Email: dronah@gmail.com

Dr. Shikha Jain's vast experience in cultural heritage of India ranges from steering conservation projects for various state governments to preparing conservation plans funded by international organisations such as the Getty Foundation, World Monuments Fund and advising ASI on World Heritage. She is currently steering the Ajmer HRIDAY Project for the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) with DRONAH as a City Anchor for Ajmer-Pushkar. She is also the Chief Editor of DRONAH's refereed Journal 'Context: Built, Living and Natural'. Being a Cultural Heritage expert, she steered matters as Member Secretary, Advisory Committee on World Heritage to the Ministry of Culture during India's term in the World Heritage Committee from 2011-2015. She received National level HUDCO awards for 2 urban conservation projects from Jaipur in 2013 that have also been recognised under Urban Green Growth Best Practices. In 2015, the National Institute of Urban Affairs documented her work on Heritage Management Plan of Jaipur as Best Practice. She is also the State Convener of INTACH Haryana Chapter and member of National Committees under the Ministry of Culture. She is also the Coordinator for National Scientific Committee ICOFORT, ICOMOS India and Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator for ICOFORT International. She is also a Visiting Faculty for Urban Conservation in the Urban Planning Department of SPA, New Delhi.

4. Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, UNESCO C2C, WII
Email: ghoshsonali@wii.gov.in

Dr Sonali Ghosh has more than 18 years of work experience in the field of forest and wildlife conservation in India. As a member of the Indian Forest Service (Assam-Meghalaya cadre), she has been on the management team for two Natural World Heritage Sites (Manas and Kaziranga), one zoo (Assam State Zoo) and one Protected Area (Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary) in remote northeast India where the primary focus of her work had been on flagship species conservation and local community development. She has a dual master's degree in Wildlife Science and Forestry and a Doctoral degree in Physical Geography from Aberystwyth University, Wales in United Kingdom. She is also a member of the IUCNWCPA and TBPA (Trans boundary Protected Areas) networks and a designated fellow in the UN-IPBES sub regional assessment for Asia Pacific region. Her current job (on secondment) is with the newly established UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage site management and training in the Asia Pacific region at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Here she has been entrusted with the primary task of capacity building and strengthening the network of natural heritage site managers and other stakeholders through dedicated training workshops and curricula. Her other areas of

interest include Protected Area Governance, Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction, Armed conflict and wildlife conservation and use of RS/GIS tools in Protected Area Management.

5. **Mr. Ardito M Kodijat, Program Officer for JTIC, Jakarta Tsunami Information Centre**
   Email: a.kodijat@unesco.org

Mr. Ardito M Kodijat joined the Jakarta Tsunami Information Centre (JTIC) at the UNESCO Office Jakarta in December 2006. Ardito is responsible in developing the Jakarta Tsunami Information Centre, an IOC project funded by Canadian International Development Agency to increase and strengthen awareness about Tsunami and the development of the Tsunami Early Warning System in Indonesia through information service. Ardito received his bachelor degree in Engineering, majoring in Architecture from Parahyangan University in Indonesia, Master in Architecture from State University of New York, and Magister Management in International Management from PPM School of Management in Jakarta. Prior to joining JTIC, Ardito spent eight years at the State Ministry of Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia and twelve years at the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology.

6. **Dr. Ram Boojh, Programme Specialist, Natural Sciences, UNESCO Cluster Office for South Asia**
   Email: r.boojh@unesco.org , ramboojh1@yahoo.com

Dr Ram Boojh has over 35 years of experience in varied areas of natural sciences including ecology, hydrology, environmental impact assessment, biodiversity, environment education and education for sustainable development and is currently working as National Programme Officer, Ecological Sciences, Natural Sciences at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi. He holds a Masters in Botany with specialization in forest ecology and soil science and Doctorate in Life Sciences (ecology). He has worked and coordinated large collaborations in multidisciplinary, multinational and multicultural teams with a range of internal and external stakeholders in a muti-cultural and multi-disciplinary environment. He is recipient of the Science Academy Medal for young scientists from late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He has over 80 research publications including a dozen books. At UNESCO, he is involved in coordinating some of very important initiatives with regional and global significance, in partnership with a range of organizations and stakeholders. He is Secretary of the South & Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM) and has contributed for decade of Education for Sustainable Development. He has established academic and research collaborations with several international organization and universities like the University of Michigan, USA; Manchester University; Environmental Law Institute Washington DC; French National Sea Centre, Climate Change Collaborative at the MIT, USA etc.

7. **Tam Hoang, Consultant for DRR, Youth & Social Inclusion**
   Email: info@tamhoang.com

Mr. Tom Hoang attended storm and flood relief missions in Australia and abroad as an emergency services volunteer for over 10 years. As the Consultant for DRR, Youth & Social

Inclusion at UNESCO Office in Jakarta, Regional Bureau of Science (Asia-Pacific), he supported the development of youth and disability-inclusive DRR programs. He currently serves as a jury member for the UN Sasakawa Award for DRR awarded by UNISDR; and Director of youth-led NGO, Youth beyond Disasters. Possessing over 10 years of professional experience spanning education, technology and marketing, he has worked with small start-ups to multi-national companies and UN agencies to improve their product or service offering and help support the communities which they serve. Outside of paid work, He have been actively involved with various charitable causes, advocating on issues ranging from cancer research, human trafficking to refugees. He possesses post-graduate qualifications in DRM; Community & Peace; and Education & Training for Sustainability. He is also a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers; and Australian Red Cross.

8. Mr. NavinPiplani, Principal Director INTACH
Email: pd.iha@intach.org

Mr. NavinPiplani is Principal Director, INTACH. He has acquired knowledge and hands-on skills in historic building conservation by working on several significant architectural conservation projects in India and Europe. Since March 2002, he has been involved as a core member of Taj Mahal Conservation Collaborative, a multidisciplinary team of conservation and management professionals, engaged in the architectural conservation of the World Heritage Site of Taj Mahal and its environs. Mr. Piplani assisted Prof. AG Krishna Menon, eminent conservationist in India, in the preparation of the Charter for the Conservation of Unprotected Architectural Heritage and Sites in India. This was adopted and published by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage on November 4, 2004, and is applied extensively by the heritage professionals working with INTACH.

9. Vanicka Arora, Consultant, NDMA
Email: vanickaarora@gmail.com

Ms. Vanicka Arora has completed her MSc in Conservation of Historic Buildings from the University of Bath, UK in 2009. She has since worked on several conservation management plans, urban revitalization strategies and museum planning projects for sites in Punjab and Rajasthan. She is currently working as Consultant National Disaster Management Authority. She is the assistant editor for 'Context-Built, Living and Natural', a bi-annual journal by Development and Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage (DRONAH). As an assistant professor at Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Ansal University she explores context driven design approaches with her students. Vanicka has also published several papers in refereed journals and has co-authored a Training Guide on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Urban Areas with RohitJigyasu, published by the Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto.

10. Mr. Jeremy England, President International Committee of the Red Cross, India
Email:

Mr. Jeremy England is the head of the ICRC's Regional Delegation for Bhutan, India, Nepal and Maldives, based in New Delhi. The Delegation provides expert legal, thematic and operational

advice and services across the Asia Pacific region. Prior to his current post, England was the Head of the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – from where he also covered Singapore and Brunei. England has also served as the Head of the ICRC Office in Australia, managing a specialist legal, communications and research team that was based in Sydney. It was focused on representing the ICRC's global concerns and activities, promoting international humanitarian law and assisting governments in the region to implement it. England comes to his current posting with tremendous experience having worked in the international aid sector for over 20 years, including for extended periods in Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania. He has also worked with non-government organisations and the United Nations. During his career, England's responsibilities have included analysis and policy development, aid cooperation and coordination, security and operational management of humanitarian emergency and development programmes. He has particular expertise in assisting vulnerable populations in transitional or unstable environments, through the coordination of large-scale integrated protection and assistance programmes, as well as through the provision of capacity building support to local structures (government and other).

11. Shri AnshumanSaikia, IUCN
Email: anshuman.saikia@iucn.org

Shri AnshumanSaikia is a Regional Programme Support Coordinator, Asia at International Union for the Conservation of Nature based in Bangkok; He has a master's degree in Environmental Assessment and Evaluation from London School of Economics and political science, University of London. He has served in IUCN at various positions and is currently administering the IUCN Disaster RELIEF Kit and CEESPproject in the Asia region.

12. Ms. Margherita Fanchiotti, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience
Email: m.fanchiotti@unesco.org

Ms. Margherita Fanchiotti is a disaster risk reduction and resilience specialist currently working with UNESCO in their Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section. Her main research interests lie in the development of metrics for disaster resilience and vulnerability assessment, the interactions between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and community-based disaster risk management. Her current projects include the evaluation of community resilience to natural hazards in Odisha, India and South America, multi-hazard school safety assessments using the UNESCO-VISUS in several countries around the world (Italy, El Salvador, Laos, Indonesia, Peru and Haiti), the development of UNISDR New Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient and collaboration on several international networks such as the International Network on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MHEWS), the International Platform on Earthquake Early Warning Systems (IP-EEWS) and the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES). MsFanchiotti is a civil engineer (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) with MSc degrees in Flood Risk Management (TU Dresden,Germany; UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands; and UPC, Spain), and a PhD candidate in Geography (University ofSouthampton, UK).

AMCDRR – Making World Heritage Risk Resilient (Thematic Session 11)

Proceedings

In a rush to save life and properties during disasters, heritage sites are often forgotten or inadvertently pushed out of consciousness. When World Heritage properties, as with all heritage properties, are exposed to natural and man-made disasters, their integrity is threatened and their values may be compromised. The loss or deterioration of these Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) would negatively impact local and national communities, both for their cultural importance as a source of information on the past and a symbol of identity, and for their socio-economic as well as ecological values. Existing national and local disaster preparedness and response mechanisms usually do not include heritage expertise in their operations. As a result, hundreds of sites are virtually defenceless with respect to potential disasters. Protection of heritage sites in the event of natural disasters, conflicts and accidents requires urgent attention of the disaster management community, environmentalists, archaeologists and policy makers responsible for protection of people and properties. Since risks related to disasters within heritage sites are a function of their vulnerability to different potential hazards each site requires contexts specific DRR plans.

This thematic session emphasizes the need for countries to develop concerted policies and plans on disaster risk reduction for world heritage sites and also seeks to examine how the heritage can foster resilience. It brings experts from both natural and cultural heritage areas who would reflect on the current situation, the potential threats and consequences and would also help identify the way ahead in terms of appropriate frameworks, existing practices and protocols, policies and perhaps trainings that may be required to enhance sensitivity of the many actors involved in creating robust DRR strategies for world heritage sites in the Asian region.

The session started with the Opening remark and Welcome note by Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS and Senior Scientist at UNESCO C2C. She introduced the four key speakers and 12 panelists to the audience and also invited them to dais to start the Session.

Shri Vinay Sheel Oberai, Secretary, MHRD was the Chairman for the session. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the importance of world heritage sites in terms of building disaster resilience. He explained about the genesis of World Heritage Convention and how important these heritages are for humanity. Heritage conservation and restoration with respect to natural hazards and man-made disasters requires multidisciplinary & multilateral interventions and UNESCO Category 2 Centre at WII is the best example of it. It is crucial for bringing different stakeholders under one umbrella to realise the goal of World Heritage Convention. One of the most important interventions in addressing disasters is capacity

building initiatives, cooperation of agency and involvement of local communities. Some institutes like IIT Madras and IIT Gandhinagar have now started the dedicated courses on heritage management to sensitize people on the subject. He said the multilateral cooperation is required in this filed

Dr. V B Mathur, Director, UNESCO C2C and Wildlife Institute of India talked about the disasters in context of World Heritage sites. He said UN Convention on World Heritage provides linkage between the natural and cultural heritage resources. The Asia Pacific region is blessed with a lot of natural and cultural heritage sites owing to the bio-geography and different cultures thriving in the area. However at the same time these sites are vulnerable to hazards like earthquake, flooding, volcanic eruption, tsunami etc and require positive human interventions. UNESCO is working on implementation of disaster risk reduction for natural and cultural heritage sites across the globe including Asia-Pacific through research, outreach, capacity-building and local communities' involvement. He cited example of World Park Congress, Hawaii 2016 where thousands of people converge to discuss the role of natural heritage in disaster risk reduction. He laid stress pro-active approach to manage disaster risks through unification of heritage management plans and disaster management plan for the sites.

Dr. Mitrasen Bhikajee, Deputy to the Director, UNESCO representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka said that this session will help in integration of natural and cultural heritage conservation. His talk was focussed on natural resources and its usage by mankind for development. Significance of the resources like published literature, guidelines, and training material available with UNESCO in the fields of disaster risk reduction. He emphasized on the Sendai framework which highlights natural and cultural heritage.

Dr. Janki Andharia, TISS, Mumbai talked about the wider picture of natural heritage and disasters. Hazards coupled with vulnerability of a system cause disasters where humans play a major role in managing these. By giving instances of disasters like excess emission of greenhouse gases, pollution, on-going mass extinction the speaker urged to broaden the discourse on risk management through linkages and micro-casues. Current pattern of consumption and development models should undertake risk reduction in a pro-active manner to gain sustainability. On recommendations, it was emphasised that it must not include the community level or micro level processes alone but also the laws that give greater accountability of the people in decisions.

Dr. Shikha Jain, DRONAH talked about cultural heritage, its protection and its role in managing disaster risks. Out of 35 Indian World Heritage Sites, 70% of these are in high seismic zones. Addressing the risks of disasters, government and stakeholders are progressing significantly by making Disaster Risk Management Plan for each site and Jantar Mantar, Jaipur has its own Heritage Management Plan which embraces Disaster Risk Reduction as well.

Cultural heritage sites of India where Structured Management Plans existed and implemented received praise in World Heritage Committee held in Doha, Qatar. On the role of cultural world heritage sites role in managing disaster risks, it was emphasised that Asia-pacific region has rich traditional repository to manage such risks. Intangible heritage and knowledge systems have great scope in providing solutions to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals.

Ms. Vanicka Arora, NDMA presented on *Heritage at Risk With respect To Built Heritage of India*. She talked about the Sendai framework very clearly identifies the role of heritage in priority area 1 and 3 and specifically highlights and the role of cultural heritage and cultural institutions within the overall agenda for sustainable development. Further she shared a case study carried by NDMA for mapping natural disasters in World Heritage Sites in India. There are 35 sites in all inscribed in India out of which 4 are Natural and Mixed WHS are located are in disaster prone zones whereas 13 cultural WHS are in areas of multiple hazards. She pointed that due to diversity in scale and physical conditions of built heritage it is difficult to apply standardised approaches for disaster risk reduction in India. She mentioned that disasters pose a risk not just to the lives of people living, visiting or managing built heritage sites but also to the heritage values that are embodied in the physical fabric. Built heritage may also offer the opportunity to act as refuge space or as examples of structural resilience using traditional technologies and this aspect may be useful while developing larger scale risk reduction strategies. However this aspect is often either romanticised or ignored completely, with little empirical research to support either approach. In her recommendation, she emphasized that it is important to identify and assess heritage values in order to link them to risk assessment processes in a structured manner. Establishing “Acceptable Risk” and “Acceptable Change” and negotiating between the two using open channels of information and increasing access strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.

Prof. Dr. Sudibyakto started his presentation describing about cultural heritage sites and different geological-hydrometerological formation in Indonesia Archipelago. Talking about the risk and its analysis, he emphasized that the risk is a combination of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. He also shared three case studies having diverse designations – in Kotagede (Cultural Site in Mataram Kingdom), the community mapping as a DRR Strategy for Urban Heritage of Yogyakarta was studied. In the second case study Parangtritis Beach (Tourist Destination in the coastal region), he talked about the white space as a different way of DRR Strategy for Tourism destination of Parangtritis. Finally Borobudur Temple (a World Heritage Site), he talked community profiling in Candirejo Village, Borobudur as a way of DRR Strategy for Tourism Destination. He concluded his presentation proposing that cultural heritage sites being vulnerable to disasters and they must have Disaster Risk Management Plan for better management in the future. Having mock drill exercise to prepare for communities to face

catastrophic disasters and informational management for better risk reduction were his vital suggestion.

Mr. Anshuman Saikia talked about linkage between protected areas and its resilience to combat disasters where Natural World Heritage Sites occupy an important place. He mentioned about the World Parks Congress and Sydney Outcome Documents. Protected Areas are repository of biodiversity holding high level of endemism in flora and fauna. He also mentioned that recently Paris Agreement also highlighted the importance of Protected areas and its ecosystem services being provide to mankind. He mentioned about the pre-conference event conducted by IUCN on 1-2 Nov 2016 in New Delhi. The event hosted representatives from different organization, institutions and ministries of the Asian region. He concluded that their event came up with suggestion based on benefits of ecosystem services that helps in combating disasters which will be submitted to the organizers.

Mr. Jeremy England, President International Committee of the Red Cross-India, works on armed conflict, law and order situation. He gave remarks on the threats to cultural heritage sites and necessary protective measures required in current scenario. Apart from saving built heritage, it is also important to save the cultural properties which are kept in museum. Regions affected with arm conflict are experiencing destruction of cultural heritage due to political and religious interests. The speaker also pointed out that legal framework is capable enough to protect the cultural heritage properties but, implementation part is poor and discouraging. He recommended that the focussed training programmes on related legislations should be made mandatory for armed forces as well as peace keeping forces.

Dr. Navin Piplani, Principal Director, INTACH, raised the issue of ownership with respect to World Heritage sites. Giving an example of disowning, the speaker shared an incident of a World Heritage site which was under threat from a chemical refinery and the government authorities were ignorant to act upon it. He insisted that the ownership of World Heritage Sites should also vest with the local community residing nearby those sites. The government authorities should sensitize people about the sites importance involve them while making conservation plans. Trainings and sensitization should be given at school levels and local levels. He emphasized on pre-disaster planning and training instead of post disaster response. Key recommendations were extensive research, sharing best practices across international platforms and integrating traditional methods.

Ms Margherita Fanchiotti has shared five key messages that have emerged from UNESCO's international initiatives on DRR and highlight the special role that world heritage can play in building a culture of risk awareness and preparedness. In particular, she has stated 1) the importance that protected areas, such as UNESCO designated sites (World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks) can play in addressing the urban/rural divide; 2) the need to

“take the naturalness out of natural disasters” acknowledging that disasters are man-made and to properly incorporate eco-DRR as a key strategy for successful DRM; 3) the necessity to move beyond participation when addressing the needs of the most vulnerable (women, youth, elderly, disabled, minorities) to act on the root causes of inequality and social exclusion and protected areas can be the building block for empowering initiatives; 4) the importance of reaching communities and having them interact with heritage sites as a livelihood strategy, as many success stories from UNESCO Biosphere Reserves around the world have demonstrated; and finally 5) the importance of education to mainstream a culture of DRR.

Dr. Shirish Ravan, UNOOSA, started his talked stressing on understating disaster as top priority during the Sendai framework and they are insisting for evidence based disaster recovery plan. Use of Space technology like earth observation in disaster management for temporal and spatial studies is an emerging field. He encouraged cooperative approach where concerned stakeholders like government agencies, NGOs and communities should venture research and management jointly. He mentioned about two important UN centres in Dehradun namely CSSTEAP and UNESCO C2C can work extensively and provide training in ecosystem based DRR.

Dr. Ram Boojh, Programme Specialist, Natural Science, UNESCO, proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of all the organizers. He summarized that UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Geo Parks are very useful in building the resilience towards disaster. He informed that the entire country of Maldives will be designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve by 2017.

Keynote Speaker and Panel Discussants

Panel Discussant participating in the discussion

Audience during the session

Shri V.S. Oberoi, Chair of the session addressing the audience

Keynote Speakers addressing the session

Director, UNESCO Category 2 Centre-WII on Natural WHS and DRR

Panel Discussants of the session